



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,569	09/26/2003	Ryo Agehama	117349	2335
25944 7590 04/21/2008 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
SINGH, SATWANT K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/21/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/670,569

Applicant(s)

AGEHAMA ET AL.

Examiner

SATWANT K. SINGH

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 10 January 2008.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 16, 20, and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya (US 7,280,237) in view of Ito et al. (US 2003/0076523).
5. Regarding Claim 1, Komiya teaches a print control apparatus comprising: a parameter acceptance unit for accepting, from a print system, a parameter used for trial processing for each mode of the trial print (Fig. 10, printing condition screen) (col. 8, lines 23-44); a trial print instruction unit for judging, based on the parameters, as to whether or not a request for the trial processing is acceptable, wherein if the request is acceptable, the trial print instruction unit instructs the print system to execute processing for image data (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3); a reception unit for receiving the processed image data from the print system (printer in

the print job performs the test printing based on the received data on the test-printing job) (col. 9, lines 32-43); and a transmission unit for transmitting the received image data to a user terminal (POD server forms a ticket of a test-printing job and transmits it to the input terminal group) (col. 9, lines 21-31).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

6. Regarding Claim 2, Komiya teaches a print control apparatus wherein: the parameter acceptance unit accepts a trial print parameter for a color mode and a trial print parameter for a monochrome mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen) (color/monochrome) (col. 8, lines 23-44); if the trial print instruction unit judges based on the test parameter for the color mode (color selected) that the request designating the color mode is acceptable, the trial print instruction unit instructs the print system to execute the processing in the color mode (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3); and if the trail print instruction unit judges based on the test print parameter for the monochrome mode (monochrome selected) that the request designating the monochrome mode is acceptable, the trial instruction unit instructs the

print system to execute the processing in the monochrome mode (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

7. Regarding Claim 3, Komiya teaches a print system comprising: a parameter retention unit for retaining a trial print parameter for a color mode (Fig. 7, color/monochrome) and a trial print parameter for a monochrome mode (Fig. 7, color/monochrome) (account table stores information on the printing charge) (col. 7, lines 13-23); and an accounting unit (user account information 306-6), wherein: the accounting unit performs an accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the color mode (color/monochrome from account table 306-5) when processing is executed for image data in the color mode (POD server calculates the sum of the printing charges of the test printing, and stores the user ID and the calculation result of the charges in the user account information) (col. 10, lines 15-18); and the accounting unit performs the accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the monochrome mode (color/monochrome from account table 306-

5) when the processing is executed for the image data in the monochrome mode (POD server calculates the sum of the printing charges of the test printing, and stores the user ID and the calculation result of the charges in the user account information) (col. 10, lines 15-18).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

8. Regarding Claim 4, Komiya teaches a print control method comprising: accepting, from a print system, a parameter used for trial print for each mode of the trial print (Fig. 10, printing condition screen) (col. 8, lines 23-44); and judging, based on the parameters, as to whether or not a request for trial processing is acceptable, wherein if the request is acceptable, instructing the print system to execute processing for image data (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

9. Regarding Claim 5, Komiya teaches a print control method, further comprising: in the accepting of the parameter, a trial print parameter for a color print mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to color) (col. 8, lines 23-44) and a trial print parameter for a monochrome print mode are accepted (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to monochrome) (col. 8, lines 23-44); in the judging of the parameter, if based on the test parameter for a color mode that the request designating the color mode is acceptable, then instructing the print system to execute the processing in the color mode (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3); and in the judging of the parameter, if based on the test print parameter for a monochrome mode that the request designating the monochrome mode is acceptable, then instructing the print system to execute the processing in the monochrome mode (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

10. Regarding Claim 6, Komiya teaches a printing method, comprising: retaining a trial print parameter for a color mode and a trial print parameter for a monochrome mode (Fig. 7, color/monochrome); and executing an accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the color print mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to color) (col. 8, lines 23-44) when processing is executed for image data in the color mode (POD server calculates the sum of the printing charges of the test printing, and stores the user ID and the calculation result of the charges in the user account information) (col. 10, lines 15-18); executing the accounting processing on the basis of the trial print parameter for the monochrome print mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to monochrome) (col. 8, lines 23-44) when processing is executed for image data in the monochrome mode (POD server calculates the sum of the printing charges of the test printing, and stores the user ID and the calculation result of the charges in the user account information) (col. 10, lines 15-18).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

11. Regarding Claim 7, Komiya teaches an image processing system comprising: a processing requesting device for requesting image processing (Fig. 3, POD server 110); and a processing execution device for executing the requested image processing for image data (Fig. 3, printer 112) so that the processed image data enables a first printer to output an image that is identical with that output by a second printer different from the first *(there are insufficient structural limitations to support claim functionality)* wherein: the processing requesting device includes: a registration requesting unit for requesting the processing execution device to register the processing requesting device for trial processing for testing the image processing of the processing execution device (Fig. 3, user detailed information) (col. 6, lines 50-62); and a processing requesting unit for requesting the processing execution device to perform the trial processing (POD server forms a ticket of a test-printing job and transmits it to the input terminal group) (col. 9, lines 21-31); and the processing execution device includes: a registration unit for executing the requested registration (user is authenticated based on the ticket of the test-printing fob) (col. 9, lines 44-58); and a trial processing execution unit for executing the trial processing requested by the registered processing requesting device (printer in the print shop performs the test printing based on the received data on the test printing job) (col. 9, lines 32-43).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

12. Regarding Claim 8, Komiya fails to teach an image processing system, wherein: the trial processing is set to have the same processing range as that of the image processing; the processing execution device further includes a trial processing range setting unit for setting the processing range of the trial processing; and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range.

Ito et al teaches an image processing system, wherein: the trial processing is set to have the same processing range as that of the image processing (print condition storing unit stores information showing print conditions which are required by the user of the printer) (pages 3 and 4, paragraph [0065]); the processing execution device further includes a trial processing range setting unit for setting the processing range of the trial processing (test print is executed by printing the image data for test on the basis of an instruction by the test chart data) (page 3, paragraph [0051]); and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range (image input

unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

13. Regarding Claim 9, Komiya fails to teach an image processing system, wherein: the trial processing is set to have a different processing range from that of the image processing; the processing execution device further includes a trial processing range setting unit for setting the processing range of the trial processing; and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range.

Ito et al teaches an image processing system, wherein: the trial processing is set to have a different processing range from that of the image processing (print condition storing unit stores information showing print conditions which are required by the user of the printer) (pages 3 and 4, paragraph [0065]); the processing execution device further includes a trial processing range setting unit for setting the processing range of the trial processing (test print is executed by printing the image data for test on the basis of an instruction by the test chart data) (page 3, paragraph [0051]); and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range (image input unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

14. Regarding Claim 10, Komiya fails to teach an image processing system, wherein the processing requesting device further includes a display unit; if the requested trial processing is beyond the processing range the display unit displays a message indicating that the requested trial processing is beyond the processing range.

Ito et al teaches an image processing system, wherein the processing requesting device further includes a display unit; if the requested trial processing is beyond the processing range the display unit displays a message indicating that the requested trial processing is beyond the processing range (Fig. 6B, S612) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0078]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

15. Regarding Claim 11, Komiya fails to teach an image processing system, wherein the trial processing execution unit of the processing execution device executes the requested trial processing within the set processing range.

Ito et al teaches an image processing system, wherein the trial processing execution unit of the processing execution device executes the requested trial processing within the set processing range (image input unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

16. Regarding Claim 12, Komiya teaches an image processing system wherein: the trial processing execution unit of the processing execution device adds image advertisement image data (Fig. 3, advertisement image file) to processing the processed image data, and the trial processing execution unit outputs image data obtained by adding the advertisement image data to the processed image data (advertisement data which is inserted in a margin of a printing sheet on which the image data is printed upon a test printing) (col. 7, lines 1-12).

17. Regarding Claim 13, Komiya teaches an image processing system further comprising: a position designation unit for accepting designation of a position an image represented by the advertisement image data, wherein: the trial processing execution unit adds the image represented by the image-advertisement image data to an image represented by the processed image data processing at the designated position (Fig. 6, area) (col. 7, lines 1-12).

18. Regarding Claim 14, Komiya teaches an image processing system, wherein: further comprising: a search unit for searching for an optimum position of the image, an image represented by the advertisement image data, wherein: the trial processing execution unit adds image the image represented by the advertisement image data to an image represented by the processed image data provided at the position found as a result of the searching. (Fig. 6, area) (col. 7, lines 1-12).

19. Regarding Claim 15, Komiya teaches an image processing system, wherein: first points are set to the trial processing (advertisement charge paid by the advertisement provider) (col. 7, lines 1-12); second points are set to the registered processing requesting device (printing charge) (col. 7, lines 13-23); the processing execution device further includes a subtraction unit for subtracting the first points set to the executed trial processing from the second points set to the registered processing requesting device every time the requested trial processing is executed (advertising charge subtracted from normal printing charge) (col. 7, lines 1-12); and the processing execution unit executes the trial processing requested by the processing requesting device corresponding to the second point during the second points are left (printed charge accounted to the user) (col. 7, lines 24-30).

20. Regarding Claim 16, Komiya teaches a processing requesting device in an image processing system including the processing requesting device for requesting image processing (Fig. 3, POD server 110) and a processing execution device for executing the requested image processing (Fig. 3, printer 112), the processing requesting device comprising: a registration requesting unit for requesting the processing execution device to register the processing requesting device for a trial processing for testing the image processing of the processing execution device (Fig. 3, user detailed information) (col. 6, lines 50-62); and a processing requesting unit for requesting the processing execution device to perform the trial processing (printer in the print shop performs the test printing based on the received data on the test printing job) (col. 9, lines 32-43).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

21. Regarding Claim 17, Komiya fails to teach a processing requesting device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have the same processing range as that of the image processing; and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range.

Ito et al teaches a processing requesting device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have the same processing range as that of the image processing (print condition storing unit stores information showing print conditions which are required by the user of the printer) (pages 3 and 4, paragraph [0065]); and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range (image input unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

22. Regarding Claim 18, Komiya fails to teach a processing requesting device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have a different processing range from that of the image processing; and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range.

Ito teaches a processing requesting device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have a different processing range from that of the image processing (print condition storing unit stores information showing print conditions which are required by the user of the printer) (pages 3 and 4, paragraph [0065]); and the processing requesting unit of the processing requesting device requests the processing execution device to perform the trial processing included in the set processing range (image input unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

23. Regarding Claim 19, Komiya fails to teach a processing requesting device, further comprising: a display unit for displaying a message indicating that the requested trial processing is beyond the processing range.

Ito et al teaches a processing requesting device, further comprising: a display unit for displaying a message indicating that the requested trial processing is beyond the processing range (Fig. 6B, S612) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0078]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

24. Regarding Claim 20, Komiya teaches a processing execution device in an image processing system including a processing requesting unit for requesting image processing (Fig. 3, POD server 110) and the processing execution device for executing the requested image processing (Fig. 3, printer 112), the processing execution device comprising: a registration unit for registering the processing requesting device for trial processing of the image processing (Fig. 3, user detailed information) (col. 6, lines 50-62); and a trial processing execution unit for executing the trial processing requested by the registered processing requesting device (printer in the print shop performs the test printing based on the received data on the test printing job) (col. 9, lines 32-43), for image data so that the processed image data enables a first printer to output an image that is identical with that output by a second printer different from the first printer (*there are insufficient structural limitations to support claim functionality*).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

25. Regarding Claim 21, Komiya fails to teach a processing execution device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have the same processing range as that of the image processing; and the trial processing execution unit executes the requested trial processing within the set processing range.

Ito et al fail to teach a processing execution device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have the same processing range as that of the image processing (print condition storing unit stores information showing print conditions which are required by the user of the printer) (pages 3 and 4, paragraph [0065]); and the trial processing execution unit executes the requested trial processing within the set processing range (image input unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

26. Regarding Claim 22, Komiya fails to teach a processing execution device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have a different processing range from that of the image processing; and the trial processing execution unit executes the requested trial processing within the set processing range.

Ito teaches a processing execution device, wherein: the trial processing is set to have a different processing range from that of the image processing (print condition storing unit stores information showing print conditions which are required by the user of the printer) (pages 3 and 4, paragraph [0065]); and the trial processing execution unit

executes the requested trial processing within the set processing range (image input unit scans the printed matter outputted by the test print and inputs image data) (page 4, paragraph [0066]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to maintain image quality.

27. Regarding Claim 23, Komiya teaches a processing execution device, wherein: the trial processing execution unit adds processing advertisement image data (Fig. 3, advertisement image file) to the processed image data, and the trial processing execution unit outputs image data obtained by adding the advertisement image data to the processed image data (advertisement data which is inserted in a margin of a printing sheet on which the image data is printed upon a test printing) (col. 7, lines 1-12).

28. Regarding Claim 24, Komiya teaches a processing execution device, further comprising: a position designation unit for accepting designation of a position of an image represented by the advertisement image data, wherein the trial processing execution unit adds the image represented by the image advertisement image data to an image represented by the processed image data at the designated position (Fig. 6, area) (col. 7, lines 1-12).

29. Regarding Claim 25, Komiya teaches a processing execution device further comprising: a search unit for searching for an optimum position of the an image represented by the advertisement image data, wherein: the trial processing execution

unit adds the image represented by the advertisement image data to an image represented by the processed image data provided at a position found as the result of the searching (Fig. 6, area) (col. 7, lines 1-12).

30. Regarding Claim 26, Komiya teaches a processing execution device, further comprising a subtraction unit, wherein: first points are set to the trial processing (advertisement charge paid by the advertisement provider) (col. 7, lines 1-12); second points are set to the registered processing requesting device (printing charge) (col. 7, lines 13-23); the subtraction unit subtracts the first points set to the executed trial processing from the second points set to the registered processing requesting device every time the requested trial processing is executed (advertising charge subtracted from normal printing charge) (col. 7, lines 1-12); and the trial processing execution unit executes the trial processing requested by the processing requesting device corresponding to the second points during the second points are left (printed charge accounted to the user) (col. 7, lines 24-30).

31. Regarding Claim 27, Komiya teaches an image processing method comprising: requesting to register a first device for a trial processing for trying image processing (Fig. 3, user detailed information) (col. 6, lines 50-62); requesting to execute the trial processing (POD server forms a ticket of a test-printing job and transmits it to the input terminal group) (col. 9, lines 21-31); register the requested first device (user is authenticated based on the ticket of the test-printing fob) (col. 9, lines 44-58); and executing the requested trial processing (printer in the print shop performs the test printing based on the received data on the test printing job) (col. 9, lines 32-43).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

32. Regarding Claim 28, Komiya teaches a print control apparatus, wherein if the request is acceptable, the trial print instruction unit instructs the print system to execute the image processing of the image data so that the processed image data enables a user's printer to output an image that is identical with that output by the print system (printer 114 is similar to printer 112) (col. 5, lines 20-28).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

33. Regarding Claim 29, Komiya teaches a print control method, further comprising: further comprising: in the judging of the parameter, if based on the test print parameter the request is acceptable then instructing the print system to execute the image

processing of the image data so that the processed image data enables a user's printer to output an image that is identical with that output by the print system (printer 114 is similar to printer 112) (col. 5, lines 20-28).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

34. Regarding Claim 30, Komiya teaches a print system, wherein the image processing is executed for the image data so that the processing image data enables a user's printer to output an image that is identical with that output by the print system (printer 114 is similar to printer 112) (col. 5, lines 20-28).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

35. Regarding Claim 31, Komiya teaches a printing method, wherein the image processing is executed for the image data so that the processing image data enables a user's printer to output an image that is identical with that output by the print system (printer 114 is similar to printer 112) (col. 5, lines 20-28).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

36. Regarding Claim 32, Komiya teaches a print system, further comprising: a control unit, wherein the control unit judges, based on the trial print parameter for the color mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to color) (col. 8, lines 23-44), as to whether or not a request, for a trial print, designating the color mode is acceptable (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3), and the control unit judges, based on the trial print parameter for the monochrome mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to monochrome) (col. 8, lines 23-44), as to whether or not a request, for the trial print, designating the monochrome mode is acceptable (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3); and

a image processing unit for performing image processing, wherein if the request designating the color mode is acceptable, the control unit allows the image processing unit to perform the image processing in the color mode in accordance with the request, and if the request designating the monochrome mode is acceptable, the control unit allows the image processing unit to perform the image processing in the monochrome mode in accordance with the request (POD server forms data on the test-printing job based on the information on the printing condition) (col. 9, lines 32-43).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

37. Regarding Claim 33, Komiya teaches a printing method, further comprising: judging, based on the trial print parameter for the color mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to color) (col. 8, lines 23-44), as to whether or not a request, for a trial print, designating the color mode is acceptable (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3); judging, based on the trial print parameter for the monochrome mode (Fig. 10, printing condition screen, color/monochrome set to monochrome) (col. 8, lines 23-44), as to whether or not a request, for the trial print,

designating the monochrome mode is acceptable (Fig. 11, confirmation information) (user can verify the contents of the printing condition and the printing charge) (col. 8, lines 61-67, col. 9, lines 1-3); and performing image processing, wherein if the request designating the color mode is acceptable, instructing the print system to execute the image processing in the color mode in accordance with the request, and if the request designating the monochrome mode is acceptable, instructing the print system to execute the image processing in the monochrome mode in accordance with the request (POD server forms data on the test-printing job based on the information on the printing condition) (col. 9, lines 32-43).

Komiya fails to teach executing raster image processing for image data.

Ito et al teaches executing raster image processing for image data (raster image processor develops a PDL code transmitted from the network into a bit map image) (page 2, paragraph [0046]).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Komiya with the teaching of Ito to use RIPing to transform the transmitted data into the outputted image data.

38. Regarding Claim 34, Komiya teaches a prosecution execution device, wherein the trial processing execution unit outputs the processed image data (printer in the print shop performs the test printing based on the received data on the test printing job) (col. 9, lines 32-43).

Conclusion

39. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SATWANT K. SINGH whose telephone number is (571)272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

Sks

/Mark K Zimmerman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625